

Purple Mountain



Arts Residency

Are you an African LGBTQIA+ artist, creative, writer or activist in need of some time out to think, breathe and create? We are looking for you. The Purple Mountain Arts Residency in Porterville, in the Western Cape, South Africa, is offering a safe environment for LGBTQIA+ persons from across Africa.

Porterville is a picturesque rural town situated at the foot of the Olifants River Mountain. Located two hours' drive from Cape Town, Porterville is an ideal setting for artists looking to work in a tranquil environment, and focus on their art.

Established in 1863 on formerly Khoekhoen land, Porterville is named after William Porter, an Irishman and former Attorney-General of the Cape Colony. Porter was a primary drafter of South Africa's first Constitution, in 1854.

Porter's "unspeakable hatred of oppression of any kind" spurred him to promote equal rights and justice for all, regardless of race, gender, and class. This Constitution prohibited discrimination on the basis of race and made provision for a franchise system where whites and blacks voted on equal terms and without distinction. This was the birth of the uniquely multiracial "Cape Qualified Franchise". Sadly, this Constitution was gradually eroded in favour of white supremacy.

Since the advent of democracy, artists in particular enjoy the liberty of rights protected under Section 16 of the South African Constitution: Freedom of Expression and Freedom of Creativity. These valued liberties were, however, not easily won.

At the height of anti-apartheid movement, on September 2, 1989, anti-apartheid protesters marched to Parliament in Cape Town, when they were stopped by police. An impromptu sit-in saw police retaliate with batons, teargas, and a new weapon - a water-cannon spraying purple dye to stain demonstrators and make them easier to identify and detain. As the crowds scattered, a protester climbed onto the armoured vehicle and turned the cannon's purple jet onto the police. Purple dye stained most of the surrounding buildings, including the National Party headquarters. The march became known as the "Purple Rain" event. The next day, graffiti around the city proclaimed: "The Purple Shall Govern".

While on paper, apartheid was dismantled 30 years ago, Porterville, like many rural towns across South Africa, continues to bear the marks of a violent colonial past, enforced through the apartheid regime's structures and ideologies. Economic inequality and conservative socio-political views perpetuate a dominant exclusionary narrative - and though it can be argued that Porterville is a fairly integrated town, apparent social cohesion and harmony is achieved through the goodwill of its citizens in the absence of government support and policy.

It is into this town that artists Carl Collison and Aldo Brincat arrived in search of affordable home ownership, safety, security, and social harmony. Their life experiences as a mixed-race queer couple, and their practice as international multi-disciplinary artists, provide the bedrock of the Purple Mountain Arts Residency, to which African LGBTQIA+ artists in particular - but not exclusively - are invited to apply.

Rolling residencies began from June 2024 and range from two weeks to one month.

Twilight in June, on occasion, renders the Olifants River mountain a sumptuous purple. It is this colour - representative of creativity, wisdom, dignity, devotion, integrity, independence, pride and, in South Africa, defiance - that gives this residency its moniker.

Interested artists wishing to extend their practice are encouraged to apply for this residency.

Deadline for applications: Rolling

The residency includes:

- Airport shuttle to and from Cape Town International Airport
- Three meals a day
- Secure and uncapped wifi
- Studio
- Use of a bicycle
- Use of basic power tools
- Mentorship, if required
- Self-curated outcomes

Interested artists should send through a PDF containing:

- A Letter of Motivation
- An up-to-date CV
- Artist bio
- Artist statement
- Five samples of work, complete with titles, description of the project, and the year of completion.



Carl Collison

Carl is an internationally respected journalist, photographer, and filmmaker. A former researcher with Human Rights Watch, Carl worked on reports centred around LGBTIQ+ migrants and asylum seekers in South Africa as well as the impacts of Uganda's most recent Anti-Homosexuality Bill. His groundbreaking work and passion for marginalised communities, gave rise to his founding and establishing the online publication, *Beyond The Margins*, which produces free-to-publish content highlighting the lived experiences of LGBTIQ+ Africans.

His documentary films have been screened across the globe.

In 2023, he held his first solo international exhibition at Western Oregon University, USA. Titled *Islanded (No More)*, the exhibition is made up of short documentary films, photographs and text. *Islanded (No More)* - as well as Collison's broader work as a queer filmmaker - was the focus of the 2023 "Economies of Violence" talk, hosted by the Desmond Tutu Centre for Religion and Social Justice, based at the University of the Western Cape, South Africa.

Carl has twice been nominated in the Best Human Interest category of South Africa's national MDDA/Sanlam Local Media Awards and was shortlisted for the 2018 Gerald Kraak Award and Anthology.

He was included in the inaugural #Awesome50 list, which recognises the work done by people across Africa to better the lives of the continent's LGBTIQ+ people.



Aldo Brincat

Aldo's theatre career spanning 35 years, served as the foundation for his recent expansion and immersion into the visual arts. In 2018, his epic photography exhibition, *Foreign Nationals*, was invited to the Brunei Gallery at SOAS, at the University of London. He has since completed his postgraduate degree in Fine Art at UCT's Michaelis School of Fine Art (with a Distinction), and is currently a Master's student in Visual Arts at Stellenbosch University.

To date, Aldo has had multiple solo exhibitions in South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, England, India, and recently, Sweden and his 21st solo exhibition was celebrated in May, 2024.

Aldo's primary career in the performing arts, was founded under the tutelage of the legendary Jacques Le Coq in Paris in the late 80's and upon his return to South Africa, he established *Brincat Productions*, an *ad-hoc theatre company* which focused on original, socio-political work, community theatre initiatives, and site-specific activations.

His most recent solo performance, *The Moon Looks Delicious From Here*, won The Special Jury Award at the Bitesize Theatre Festival, at the

prestigious Riverside Theatre in London, and The Standard Bank Siler Ovation Award at the National Arts Festival in Makhanda, South Africa, both in 2024.

Aldo also received an invitation to perform for His Excellency, Nelson Mandela, on his birthday in 1997; and an invitation to showcase his environmental theatre work, *Woza Waste Water*, at the World Bank in Washington D.C., in 2000.

In 2008, Aldo was commissioned to write a theatre piece, *Light*, for Ian Khama to celebrate his accession to the Presidency of Botswana. Aldo has been nominated for, and won, several theatre and community initiative awards, and was voted by the *Mail & Guardian (SA)*, as among *The Top Five Stage Performers of the Decade, 1999 – 2010*.